

# What YOU need to know!

## Tornado Preparedness

Tornados in Hawaii are an extremely rare event. On Oahu in particular less than 20 were recorded from 1957 to 2009 and of these four caused damage in the \$250,000.00 range with no fatalities reported.

The March 2012 tornado in Lanikai is a reminder that we need to be prepared and aware should future tornado or severe weather events threaten.

The National Weather Service Forecast Office in Honolulu will issue emergency information regarding tornados and severe weather events. Be prepared to take action if you hear the following messages broadcasted via the Emergency Alert System (EAS) TV and radio:

**TORNADO WATCH:** Tornados are possible in your area. Remain alert for approaching storms.

**TORNADO WARNING:** A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. If a tornado warning is issued for your area and the sky becomes threatening, move to your pre-designated place of safety.

**SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WATCH:** Severe thunderstorms are possible in your area.

**SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING:** Severe thunderstorms are occurring.

### **General Tips: “When The Thunder Roars, Stay Indoors”**

- Purchase a NOAA Weather Radio and become familiar with it's use and operation.
- If a tornado forms seek cover immediately.
- In a home or building get as low as possible and stay away from windows. You may also seek cover in an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor and get under a sturdy piece of furniture.
- Get out of automobiles and seek shelter in a ditch, culvert or under a bridge.
- Water spouts appearing over the ocean or lakes can be just as hazardous.

Tornados can develop rapidly with little or no warning. Remember, seek shelter immediately. Flying debris are responsible for most tornado related

### **DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

City and County of Honolulu

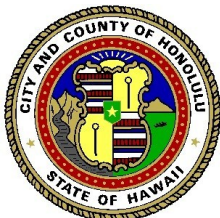
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# Plan and Prepare Now for the Next Disaster

**Learn** – Educate yourself on disasters that can affect you and your Family.

**Plan** – Create and exercise a Family Disaster Plan. Locate a secondary meeting place and designate an off island contact.

**Individual, Family and Business Disaster Planning** – Disaster planning is everyone's business. Carefully review this information and take the time today to discuss preparedness planning with family, friends, neighbors and co-workers.

## **Develop a 14-Day Disaster Supplies Kit**

Your disaster supplies kit should contain enough of the following items to last for 14-days minimum:

- **Water** - One gallon of water per person per day for 14 days for drinking and sanitation
- **Food** - Non-perishable food that does not require cooking. Survival foods such as Peanut Butter, Protein Shakes, Dried Fruits, Nuts
- **Eating Utensils** – Plates, mess kits, forks and chop sticks. Don't forget a non-electric can opener for canned foods
- **Radio** - Battery-powered or hand crank radio with NOAA Weather alert
- **Light** - Flashlight and or a portable fluorescent light
- **Spare batteries** - Check annually
- **First Aid** – Get a good kit and consider enrolling in a certified first aid course
- **Whistle** – Important for signaling for help. A whistle carries much farther than the human voice and uses less energy than yelling
- **Dust Mask** – Helps to filter contaminated air
- **Sanitation** - Moist towelettes, heavy duty garbage bags, hand sanitizer gel, toilet paper, baking soda/kitty litter to absorb odors, gloves and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- **Tools** - Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities, duct tape
- **Maps** - Local area maps
- **Prescription** – Special medications, glasses and medical devices
- **Pets** - Pet food and extra water for your pet
- **Miscellaneous** - Infant Formula, diapers, incontinent supplies, feminine products

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